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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Creator of all things, thank You for Your unfailing love and compassion.

Lord, forgive us when we have fallen short of Your will. We have spoken when we should have kept silent. We have said nothing when we should have lifted a voice of concern.

Create within our lawmakers clean hearts. Renew a right spirit within them. May they permit humility to precede honor. Give us the conviction that with Your help all things are possible.

And, Lord, comfort all who mourn the death of United States Capitol Police Officer William Evans. Also, continue to keep Your healing Hands on Officer Kenneth Shaver.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Polly Ellen Trottenberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The deputy majority leader is recognized.

RAMADAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today marks the first day of Ramadan. For the second year in a row, Muslims around the world will be celebrating Islam's holiest month in the midst of this pandemic.

Traditionally, Ramadan is an opportunity for families to gather in prayer and break bread together after a day-long fast, but I know many people of the Muslim faith will not have that opportunity this year. It is a painful reminder of all the sacrifices all of us have been called to make since the beginning of this pandemic.

For all of those who observe, may this holy month be a time of peace for you and your loved ones, and I hope you will be able to break bread together soon.

HONORING OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS

Mr. President, today is also another day of mourning for the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police Force.

I spent much of my life working in this building as a college student, law student, staff member, Congressman, and Senator. This building has a special place in my life and in the lives of many Americans. It is an enduring symbol of American freedom and democracy. It is recognized around the world.

Sadly, it is also a target for mean-spirited attackers and troubled souls.

We saw that on January 6, when a mob invaded these halls and this Chamber. We saw it on 9/11, when terrorists hijacked a plane with the intent of crashing it into this building. And, sadly, we saw it again on April 2 with the vehicular attack on the north entrance barricade to the Capitol, one of the most frequently used entrances.

The men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police guard this Capitol 24/7, 365. They put their lives at risk to protect this building and those of us who work here and those who visit. They literally risk their lives for us. It is the clearest symbol of heroism that I can think of.

On April 2, one of those heroes, Capitol Police Officer Billy Evans, made the ultimate sacrifice. He was killed in the line of duty defending the people in this building.

Officer Evans was 41 years old—41. An 18-year veteran of the Capitol Police, he was a familiar, friendly face to many of us here at the Capitol, where he often worked at the north entrance.

Officer Evans was a native of North Adams, MA, a father of two children, Logan and Abigail. His family said that he was “the best father, son, brother, and friend that anyone could ever hope for.” They went on to say:

The absolute most important thing in life was his two children. . . . He was always so eager to show how proud he was of everything they did. Any opportunity to spend time with his children brightened both their lives and his. Their dad was their hero long before the tragic events of last week.

The loss of Officer Evans is heartbreaking. I join in praying for his family and loved ones.

We also send our prayers to Officer Ken Shaver, who was injured in the April 2 attack, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

The U.S. Capitol Police have faced incredible hardship this year with the loss of three officers: Officer Evans, Officer Brian Sicknick, and Officer Howard Liebengood. And 80 officers were seriously injured in the insurrectionist mob attack on January 6.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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